

19 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lapham, A/DDCI



FROM : Cord Meyer, Jr.

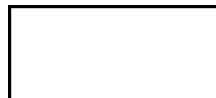
SUBJECT : Status Report on PRM 30 - Terrorism

Attached is a memorandum for the record of the most recent working group meeting on PRM 30.



Cord Meyer, Jr.

Attachment: M/R



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PRM-30 Working Group Meeting

1. The PRM-30 Working Group met on Tuesday morning, 18 August, from 1000 to 1115 hours, in the White House Situation Room. The purpose was to review the second draft of the PRM, dated 15 August, and to clarify and resolve (if possible) serious differences on three issues. These concerned policy on dealing with terrorists, coordination of intelligence activities, and the chairmanship of the new interagency group on terrorism. The meeting was chaired by Colonel William Odom, Military Assistant on the National Security Council Staff. CIA was represented by Mr. Cord Meyer, SA/DDCI, and the undersigned from DDO/PCS/ITC.

Intelligence Issue

2. Colonel Odom led off with the intelligence issue. It soon became evident that such differences as existed were between Dr. Jane Pisano of the NSC Staff and everyone else. The PRM subgroup on intelligence had recommended the chartering of an intelligence subcommittee on international terrorism under the DCI's Critical Collection Problems Committee (CCPC); and this was in fact the position taken in the initial PRM draft. However, in the second draft, that position had been recast as two options -- a subcommittee on intelligence under the CCPC, or one under the proposed Interagency Group. This change had come as a complete surprise not only to CIA's representatives, but also to those from other agencies. (CIA's views taking exception to this change had been communicated to Colonel Odom by the SA/DDCI on the previous day.)

3. Dr. Pisano put her case in terms of a question: what role, if any, should the Interagency Group have in coordination of intelligence activities concerning terrorism?

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She volunteered new language which would recognize a CCPC subcommittee's role in dealing with "technical" intelligence collection and dissemination problems, but would then give responsibility to the Interagency Group and its Executive Committee under the SCC "for discussing and proposing policy recommendations, including establishing requirements, setting priorities, (and) assessing the adequacy of intelligence efforts." CIA's response was that there were already clearly defined channels and mechanisms for doing these things, and that these were indeed being added to and strengthened under the new PRM-11 reorganization plan. Moreover, representation of the intelligence agencies on the Interagency Group was in large measure intended to facilitate that Group's dialogue with the Intelligence Community.

4. All other representatives that spoke on the issue supported the CIA position. State (John Karkashian) saw no need for an intelligence subcommittee of the Interagency Group, and expressed complete satisfaction with the responsiveness of the intelligence agencies under the past CCCT Working Group set-up. The JCS representative [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who had been well prepared by DIA) opted strongly for all provisions of the CCPC study. One Justice representative (Thompson Crockett) noted that "assessing the adequacy of intelligence efforts" would require much information as to sources and methods, and that the Interagency Group was certainly not the forum to get into that. The discussion closed with the observation of Larry Gibson (Associate Deputy Attorney General) that, "while there was probably not much consensus on the other issues, there was certainly consensus that no one wanted this proposed change."

5. The net result with regard the PRM's Section III on intelligence was that Dr. Pisano's options will be dropped, a subcommittee under the CCPC will be recommended, and the Interagency Group's involvement will be reflected in a single sentence along the following lines: "The Executive Committee (of the Interagency Group) would have responsibility for discussing and proposing policy recommendations on the adequacy of intelligence efforts." Justice requested that two paragraphs defining terrorism and international terrorism be included. These had been in the version of Section III worked out last week between Justice and CIA, but had not been included in the NSC's second draft of the PRM.

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Policy Issue

6. The sharp differences on policy for dealing with terrorists that were evident at the 9 August session were defused rather quickly with Colonel Odom volunteering to drop his so-called alternative approach (essentially a "no-policy" option, allowing the individual agencies to develop their own operational guidelines). Odom explained that he had been bothered by two concerns -- the fear that any statement on policy would almost certainly leak and be subject to misinterpretation and speculation, and that a publicly proclaimed policy on terrorism would not be acceptable to Dr. Brzezinski. In the discussion that followed, it was clear that all present felt that there had to be some US Government policy and that the "firm-but-flexible" formulation came closest to it. The Treasury representative (Robert O'Brien) noted that the various agencies "should not be forced or allowed to fly by the seat of their pants" on this matter. And John Karkashian of State spoke for "one policy, but with multiple strategies for dealing with terrorists."

7. It was agreed that Colonel Odom will substantially recast the policy section, indicating consensus for "a firm policy, with flexibility in strategies for dealing with terrorist incidents according to the circumstances and the capabilities of the agencies involved." Stress would be placed on agencies developing operational guidelines under the broad policy according to their individual needs, and then coordinating these as necessary under the aegis of the Interagency Group.

Chairmanship Issue

8. The question of who should chair the Interagency Group remained unresolved, and the matter will be put to SCC principals. Justice favors the co-chairman option, with Justice as its second-choice. State continues to press its own case. Moreover, according to John Karkashian, State would step aside in favor of Justice rather than accept co-chairmanship. Robert O'Brien of Treasury tabled lengthy comments on the issue, mostly directed against the Justice position, but recommending as a new option the designation by the NSC of an "independent Executive Coordinator." Later developments indicated that DOD was prepared to support this position. However, Colonel Odom stated flatly that "the NSC option was not a viable one."

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9. The Department of Transportation representative then weighed in, stating that he felt the options should not go to the SCC principals without a recommendation indicating Working Group preferences. Justice supported this, and the key agency representatives were polled. The State option was supported by five -- State, Transportation, Treasury, Defense and CIA. The co-chairmanship and Justice options were supported by two -- Justice and ERDA. The CIA position was presented as that we would willingly serve and cooperate with whoever chairs the group; that we did not, however, believe co-chairmanship was a good idea; and that, if required to choose, we preferred State chairmanship.

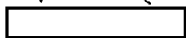
10. Although the above poll pretty much decided the matter, it was followed by a rather heated and acrimonious exchange among Justice, State, and Treasury as to how the key positions on chairmanship were to be presented in the PRM. It was eventually agreed that the NSC Staff's wording on advantages-vs.-disadvantages would be discarded in favor of new, one-page position statements to be prepared by State and Justice.

11. The NSC Staff will now re-draft the PRM to reflect decisions taken at this meeting. It will then be sent out to PRM Working Group members for clearance, probably about the middle of next week (22-26 August), with the hope that another Working Group meeting will not be needed. Colonel Odom has tentatively scheduled the PRM for consideration at the 30 August meeting of the SCC.



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